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Testimony of State Representative Robert Sanchez
To the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee, in support of: House
Bill 5421, *An Act Prohibiting Fee For The Use Of Credit Cards In Making A Tuition*
Payment.

Public Hearing February 26, 2015

Good afternoon, Chairman Bartolomeo and Willis and distinguished members of the Higher Education and Employment Advancement Committee. I am submitting testimony in support of House Bill 5421, AN ACT PROHIBITING INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER EDUCATION FROM CHARGING A CONVENIENCE FEE FOR THE USE OF CREDIT CARDS IN MAKING A TUITION PAYMENT.

The need for this bill came to my attention, because there are a number of Institutions of Higher Education that are charging a convenience fee for the use of credit cards in making a tuition payment. These convenience fee charges are generally charged by four year-institutions and not for two-year institutions. The charges come at a 2.5% credit card processing fee for Connecticut State Universities and a 2.75% credit card processing fee for the University of Connecticut.

According to Connecticut State Colleges & Universities Board of Regents for Higher Education, the cost of a full time in state undergraduate student is between \$8,877 and \$9,560. The addition of convenience fees for the use of credit cards in order to make a tuition payment should be waived through the use of resident based waivers. These waivers would prohibit the charge of a convenience fee for the use of credit card processing.

Our statutes must ensure that Connecticut students are afforded their right to an education without additional convenience fees added to their tuition payments. The enactment of this legislation will help to ensure that no Institution of Higher Education will charge a convenience fee for the use of credit cards in making a tuition payment for the purpose of eliminating excess fees when using credit cards as a form of payment.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to submit testimony and for your consideration of this bill.